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ABSTRACT

A paper presenting the objectives of the National Association of Black Adult Educators is given. The association was formed to take action to seek and implement pragmatic solutions to the problem of the exclusion of blacks and other minorities from the decision making process in American society. Specific objectives include: (1) To provide a permanent organization for all Adult Educators in the United States of America, (2) To provide meaningful involvement of blacks in the activities of the major professional organizations, (3) To encourage the employment of blacks as directors and supervisors of Adult Education programs at national, state, and local levels, (4) To encourage the employment of blacks as deans, directors, and professors at the colleges and universities, (5) To design and implement quality ethnic oriented programs with special emphasis placed on reducing racial tension, promoting legal justice, and promoting cultural and economic awareness, (6) To design relevant training programs for teachers, administrators, paraprofessional and peer-teachers involved in projects dealing with minority group education, (7) To develop racial/ethnic curriculum materials, (8) To promote agreement with Federal Agencies to perform contract monitoring, evaluation, and research services on projects relating to minority education, and (9) To promote fellowship among members. (Author/CK)

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POSITION PAPER

GENERAL

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK ADULT EDUCATORS was created in 1969 out of the need to bring to the Nation's attention the waste of the resources and potential of a large segment of its populace through the continuing practice of rampant Racism. One of the greatest needs of our country is for every strata of our society to recognize as a fact, that Blacks are still being denied a responsible role in shaping, directing and influencing the growth and destiny of this land and its people. The Black man's participation is limited usually to positions of neither authority nor power, but rather to high risk ones in the sense of stability of employment. In actuality, his involvement in either shaping or buttressing the life of this nation is merely a patronizing or placating gesture of microscopic tokenism by the macro-culture.

LACK OF ETHNIC INVOLVEMENT - OUTGROWTH

At the 1969 Galaxy Conference on Adult Education in Washington, D. C., the positions depicted above were glaringly present in many aspects of the various adult education associations and other participants therein. It was obvious and quite apparent, that ethnic groups were excluded from planning the national meeting. Further, the absence of ethnic minorities as officers and members of the executive committees of these associations were clearly visible, except in the very narrow context mentioned previously. There was no serious evidence at that Conference of any intention to effectuate an end to the pattern of non-involvement of Blacks and other ethnic minorities in planning an Adult Educational System for this nation.

Minority groups, who had been systematically neglected, although not numerically the greatest, were by percentage of population those most in need of some form of Adult Education. Under some federal and private funding providing educational opportunities at all levels, Black and other minorities in a surge of new awareness began to take advantage of them.

This enlarged learning force created new demands and programs, which generated new positions at decision making and program designing levels. It became apparent to Black Educators that the ratio of Black participants far out-weighed the ratio of Blacks participating in the high level determination of their academic disciplines, their academic destinies and in determining the relevancy of programs for minority

groups. Therefore, over eighty percent of the Black educators present at the Galaxy Conference on Adult Education in December 1969 decided to act. They were disturbed by the continuing pattern of Racism evident there, and in fact throughout the Country. They mobilized and established the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK ADULT EDUCATORS.

It was and is their adamant determination, that immediate action must be taken to seek, recommend and implement pragmatic solutions to correct a past and a present, which according to all data clearly evidence overt and insensitive exclusions of Blacks and other minorities on the basis of race and other subjective invalid criteria.

THE ASSOCIATION: AN AMERICAN WAY

The NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK ADULT EDUCATORS was formed in the interest of Blacks and the people of this country. We wish that it be understood, that our actions were influenced by the obvious need to add the unique riches of the Black experience, potential and resources to the field of education, and into the other segments needed for this country's economic, political, social and moral growth and development.

We recognize the need to aid in the attitudinal deprogramming of Whites, the Establishment, the Institutions of Learning, so that they will move with accelerated pace to a relevant and realistic attitude necessary for a healthy and profoundly sound America. Therefore, our Association of citizens, having a common cause, intends to find alternatives and options to maximize our effective involvement with established organizations, institutions, and government, rather than work along

seperatist lines. In a participatory context, we can solve the burning issues of our day, put an end to racism and the waste of the resources and potential of the ethnic minorities, and thus achieve for all people a full and happy life, with dignity and equity for all, who dwell on this land.

This posture the Association membership believes to be the commendable way to function, so that by its example, it will generate a positive response in America to its sound national objectives.

EFFORTS - QUESTIONS

Since December 1969, we have presented by Briefs to appropriate organizations across the nation our objectives and made known our presence. Response of ascent and support of N.A.B.A.E. were made by all from the White House on down. Yet to-date the receptive verbiage has not germinated into a deep commitment to ethnic equity and human decency. There has been no serious effort to organizationally accommodate by implementation the mandates, which will be listed below.

N.A.B.A.E. questions the educational intent of the macro-culture toward Blacks and minorities and the poor.

a. Is there a real national commitment to a philosophy to educate them?

b. Is there an intent to permit economic development and mobility to be a way of life for our people?

c. Is there in good conscience a real intent to bring the necessary concentrated effort to ensure social justice, fair housing, adequate health care, jobs, for all people including sensible programs for the Aging?

These questions project a few enumerations of items which must command the Nation's attention.

OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK ADULT EDUCATORS are:

1. To provide a permanent organization for all Adult Educators of the United States of America.
2. To promote meaningful involvement of Blacks in the activities of the major professional organizations.
3. To encourage the employment of Blacks as directors and supervisors of Adult Education programs at national, state, and local levels.
4. To encourage the employment of Blacks as deans, directors, and professors at the colleges and universities.
5. To design and implement quality ethnic oriented programs with special emphasis placed on
   (a) reducing racial tensions,
   (b) promoting legal justice, and
   (c) promoting cultural and economic awareness.

6. To design relevant training programs for teacher, administrators, para-professional and peer-teachers involved in projects dealing with minority group education.
7. To develop racial/ethnic curriculum materials.
8. To promote agreement with Federal Agencies to perform contract monitoring, evaluation, and research services on projects relating to minority education.
9. To promote fellowship among members.
10. To provide media for the exchange of ideas and methods.
11. To strengthen regional associations and stimulate member participation.
12. To provide opportunity for recognition of Black and minority leadership and service.
13. To provide a clearinghouse for materials written by Black Educators.
14. To provide a consortium of Black Educators to perform national consultant services.
15. To provide liason between federal, state and local agencies and Black Educational Institutions.
16. To monitor and evaluate legislation affecting the education of Blacks and minority groups.
17. To promote a closer affinity of the non-professional and professional who are members of the micro-culture to recognize their common interest and necessity for mutual activism.

THE PROGRAM OF WORK

The 1971 - 72 Program of work of NABAE has been prepared in accordance with the above objectives. The Association is a pragmatic open ended one receptive to new approaches, programs and ideas.

The NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK ADULT EDUCATORS is a necessary catalyst for America. It is an agent for change. One of its basic intents is to help to turn this Country around, so that the words of the late Whitney Young in his book, "Beyond Racism", "America is poised on the brink of disaster. We are caught in the clutches of a racial crisis of such overwhelming proportions that the very future of democracy is at stake", need not in future writing appear reflecting the state of this Nation.

This Nation must act or die. It will not die, because it has a history of working itself out of crises. N.A.B.A.E. intends to participate with others in the survival of this Nation.

AN INSTRUMENT FOR MINORITIES

N.A.B.A.E. an instrument of the Blacks and other ethnic minorities, will portray to this Nation their wants in relevant areas such as Adult Basic and Sequential Education, the need for valid research, the need for adaquate health care, housing, jobs, and futuristic economic deve-

lopment programs. It will recommend ways for implementations, which will be effective and at the same time be infused with human dignity and self respect.

The Association anticipates being and will cooperate with Black Youths, and all young people of this land in being a responsible vehicle for their relevant voices and deep concerns for this Nation.

It will continuously bring the "The Ecology Message of Education", to that group of "specialists", the Educators, and point out, but with recommendations, all the pathological social ills which retards and contribute to the destruction of our people.

The Young and Black everywhere are asking the same questions. "Can we share in this Government?" Is it possible for us to work within the establishment?" "How can the little people have a sense of participation and a share in this Nation?" One of the keys to these questions is again Adult Education.

The Establishment must be made to note, that social, political and economic mobility of a people have throughout history change the structure of the existing establishment. The blue collar worker, the silent majority must be made to understand, that their future is in lockstep with that of the ethnic minorities. Therefore, their attitude must be tooled more objectively. The blue collar worker must be made to understand that it is being manipulated by the same forces, which continue the exploitation of the minorities.

If one or both of the above is accomplished, then maybe through the leverage of a broadening constituency and the process of education the

Establishment can be made to realize that an accomodation of power, the sharing of power is essential for its and this Nation's survival. Such an accomodation will result in the welding of the total national resources of all Americans. It will make easier, the necessary revolutionizations needed at this time. These are messages which N.A.B.A.E. will carry everywhere it goes in this country.

In order to win support for sound Adult Basic and Continuing Education programs, which because of the speed of changes today, really means life long education or learning, the constituency needing these services must be motivated to partake thereof, and must be activated to demand the necessary services, thus improving the priority for Adult Education. NABAE will nurture these approaches.

In addition, N.A.B.A.E., through its association with other educational organizations, will be able to exert great influence on behalf of minority group representation in every strata and ramification of education and in other facets of community and national life.

OUR CHALLENGE

The NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK ADULT EDUCATORS has accepted as a challenge the opportunity to help save America, by helping to make America real. We offer to this Nation and our associates in the field of Education our good faith and the opportunity to benefit from the untapped lore of the Black Experience.

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on Adult Education